

# Concordia Newsletter

## April 2024



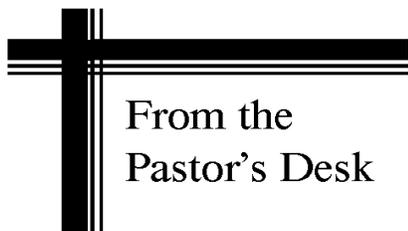
Concordia Lutheran Church and Christian Day School  
216 5<sup>th</sup> Ave SE. Conover, NC 28613  
Church 828.464.3324 | School 828.464.3011  
Rev. Michael Geml, Sr. Pastor 828.464.3324 x303 | C 517.395.8422  
Mr. David Beringer, Principal 828.464.3301 x202

Church website: <https://www.concordianc.org>  
Church office email: [sharman@concordianc.org](mailto:sharman@concordianc.org)

### Worship Times

Sunday 9:00a Contemporary  
Sunday 11:00a Traditional

Both services meet in the  
sanctuary.



From the  
Pastor's Desk

### APRIL SHOWERS BRING A BENEFICIAL INTRUSION

Years ago, in my athletic youth, I readily admit that I played way too much softball. Several nights during the week would find me at several different ball fields running, sliding, throwing, swinging and loving every minute of it. I loved every aspect of the game. I loved the grass, the dirt, the comradery, the competition. During those years I would closely monitor the weather reports throughout the day, hoping that the game scheduled for that evening would not be rained out. Sitting here now in my 60's, way past my youthful athletic prime, it is silly to admit that a harmless rain shower had such control over my mood for the entire day.

What I realized was that I was using the rain shower as an excuse for my attitude. That is very indicative of the human condition. Adam blamed God and he also blamed Eve. Eve, in turn, blamed the serpent. We carry on that sinful tradition when we seek to blame anything and anyone other than ourselves. It is so much easier to fix blame elsewhere than where it really belongs. I am not sitting in judgement over the weather because that is something out of our control. What I do kick myself over is permitting external forces to have such a high degree of influence in my attitude and in my life.

It was actually not Mark Twain but Twain's friend and colleague Charles Dudley Warner who said, "Everyone complains about the weather, but no one does anything about it." When it comes to the weather our options are limited. If we dislike the heat we can move somewhere colder. But be assured that when you get to that new place you will find plenty of new things to complain about. We can run but we cannot hide. And not just from the weather. Try as we might, we cannot run away from our own sinful selves.

The truth is that the showers I cursed for ruining my fun, were the same showers that watered plants and other vegetation necessary for life. In reality the showers were a beneficial intrusion but only when I chose to see things outside of my own selfish desires. Charles Dudley Warner also said this, "The excellence of a gift

lies in its appropriateness rather than in its value.” The welcome intrusion of rain showers gives us a real example of God’s love and His provision.

The gift of God’s Son shows us appropriateness and great value. The one provision that we dare not ignore is the shower of God’s love that comes to us in His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. This beneficial intrusion comes into our sinful lives and covers us in God’s forgiveness. The Passion of Jesus, His life, death and resurrection are undeniable proofs of God’s love for us. May we live in heart-felt appreciation and eternal adoration of our glorious and eternal God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In His service,

Pastor Geml



## ***Whose Is It Anyway?***

If you have ever bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a “title search.” Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a preschool classroom during playtime and you’ll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, “That’s mine: I had it first.”

You can’t understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it:

You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Your neighbor’s possessions are *his*: you don’t have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership *to you*? Paul says, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God’s leave: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since *you* belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.

This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.

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The Troop's 1st backpacking trip of 2024, to South Mountain State Park, was a success. The younger boys worked on basic compass / map skills. The older boys worked on leadership skills - a couple of the more insane boys even went swimming! The adults worked on trying to keep up with the limitless energy of the boys on the hiking trail. Everyone enjoyed nature and good camaraderie. Temperatures dipped below freezing Saturday night so we were fortunate that the younger boys were able to get a fire started after the older boys gave up too quickly!

Special thanks to Kyle Smith and Rodney Burns for providing adult leadership on the trip.

Special thanks to Rodney Burns: our campsite had no cell reception so he hiked halfway up the adjacent mountain to get the NCAA tournament scores - GO STATE!!!



# Youth Ministry Program Update



## Youth Activities

- On March 10 we met in Youth Central for a topic on how God wants us to use our phones. We also played Underground Church. We had 8 youth attend.
- On March 24 we will be had a Youth Pickle Ball Tournament at Rock Barn. We had a devotion, food, and games of Pickle Ball. 15 students attended and they are ready for a rematch!
- On April 12-14 we have three middle school students going to the SE District Middle School Youth Gathering in Williamsburg along with adult leaders Bill Unverfehrt and Kurt Artelt. This is the first time Concordia has participated in this event.
- On April 28 the Youth will participate in Indoor Olympics as they compete in ping pong, air hockey, foosball, bumper pool and shuffle board. We will have a topic, food and some fun competition.
- Kelly Roth, our 4-6<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School Teacher, took our Pre-Teen Youth (Gr. 4-6) Roller Skating on March 10. We had 8 youth attend. Seven of the youth were from our Sunday School class and one was from CCDS. We had several adults who attended also.

Bill U. attended a meeting of area youth leaders to share ideas and start planning on how we can coordinate transportation to New Orleans for the 2025 National Youth Gathering. The youth leaders feel that working together will be a benefit to all the youth programs.

## Scout Program

The Concordia Scout Program gave back to Concordia Lutheran Church by mulching the school flower beds and pressure cleaning around the school. We are thankful for what they accomplished and for the leadership and parent support that makes both the Cub Scouts and the Boy Scouts program so successful.

The Boy Scout Barbeque Sale has been moved to the end of May. Plan on purchasing some barbeque from them at that time.

You can see pictures of our youth in action on our Facebook Page at Concordia Lutheran Youth NC. To see all of the activities of our scout program – go to the Troop 383 Facebook Page.

***Please pray for our youth as they navigate the challenges of today's world.***

**YOUTH**  
**CAN CHANGE THE WORLD**



**Hospital/Out Patient:** Debbie Jones, Renee Long, Roger Staley, Betsy Murray, Caleb Brown.

**Sympathy to:** Renee Long and family upon the death of her husband Randy McKinney. The family of Billy Mac Smyre. Jill Graff and family upon the death of Alvaro Iriarte.

**Other Prayer Needs:** Our church and school staff and students; the unchurched in our area and throughout the world; our church, school; church leadership; peace; our national and world leaders; People in Ukraine; World Hunger Crisis; Marriages; Sudan, War in Israel.



# The Parent Block

## Spiritual Building Blocks for Parents

Written by Kathy Unverfehrt



### *Scripture Verse*

**“God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.”**

*2 Timothy 1:7*

### *Reflection*

*Parenting children in today’s world where there is an ever-changing environment of morals, values, and ethics can be a stumbling block to raising godly children. At times you may feel like the only parent who has any sense of sanity and balance in training children to be respectful, compassionate, kind, loving, helpful, forgiving, independent, successful, etc. – you get the idea. You may feel all alone in this journey of parenthood, however, you have an amazing advocate who is with you constantly. God promises to give you a spirit of courage to make wise and godly decisions for your children even when they say, “Everyone else is doing it. Why can’t I?” He promises to give you a sense of power and love that activates you to parent your child on a spiritual journey of faithfulness to their Creator. When other parents are making excuses for their child’s poor behavior or choices, do you, or will you, do the same – or will you rely on God’s spirit of parenting self-discipline?*

### *Parent Commitment*

*I will trust God’s spirit of power and courage to raise my children in a way that reflects the life of Christ.*



## SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

When: June 17-20, 9a-12p

Where: Family Life Center – Youth Central

“Diving into friendship with God!”

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The Prime Timers will be having a Pot Luck for the April 9th meeting at 11:30AM. We will have Jamie Brown from Sipe's Orchard Home as our special guest speaker. We invite you to make plans to be at our social.

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Concordia's next Sunday Servant Event (formerly Sunday Extravaganza) will be on Sunday, April 21st at 2:30 pm. The Sunday School Preschool children will be singing for the patients at Conover Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Thank you to the children, parents and teachers for their willingness to share their time and talents with others.

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### *Kentucky Derby Hat Making*



Thursday, April 26 at 10a

Bring a hat to decorate or one can be provided for you.

Please RSVP to the church office by noon on Wednesday, April 24 so we can have the necessary supplies available for you.



## *Creative Haven*

“Telling the story of His faithfulness” is what Creative Haven is all about. God answers prayers.

1Thessalonians 5:16-18 says “ Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Do you desire a way to help you remember your prayers? Is God answering your prayers? Do you rejoice every day in the things God has provided to you?

Creative Haven meets on the first Sunday of each month at 3-5p. We will show you ways to “Tell the Story of His faithfulness.” Creative Haven is a time to grow in God’s Word. Come hang out with Belinda Bost and Susan Harman. Stay as little or as long as you like. This is not a craft class although sometimes we will make our own journals to hold our thoughts and to leave a legacy behind for our children and grandchildren. We show you how to make it personal for your family. Sometimes we color a prayer card as we pray for a dear friend. Write on the back of the card your prayers for your friend then mail it to them. Share your faithful heart with others!

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**LWML** will be collecting Mite boxes in April. Pick up a box today! They can be found in the Welcome Centers. Fill them with coins and return them in April.

# FELLOWSHIP RETURNS!

April 7th  
9:50a-10:10a

GRAB A CUP OF COFFEE OR JUICE  
AND A LIGHT SNACK BEFORE  
HEADING TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Concordia Church is excited to host fellowship time on Sundays! This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow members and nourish our stomach with a small snack before nourishing our minds in Sunday School. Whether you attend the early service or late service, please consider hosting a fellowship time one Sunday! What does that entail?

- Bring a sweet treat and/or fresh snack to share.
- Brew coffee and have drinks and snacks set up by 9:50. (Items stored in the new "Fellowship Room.")
- Clean up at 10:10.

If you're willing to host a Sunday fellowship, please reach out to Katrina Palozzi at 828-238-2865 or scan the QR Code to sign up. What a wonderful way you can help gather together members of God's family!





**CONCORDIA**  
**Christian Day School**  
A Tradition of *Excellence* in a Changing World

### **Mission Statement**

**Our Mission is to provide a comprehensive, excellence-driven education in which an integrated faith in Jesus Christ is fostered, celebrated, and shared throughout our community.**

### **Now Enrolling for 2024-2025**

We are blessed to have nearly a full school for the 2024-2025 school year. Only six spots remain in middle school! More and more children and families are learning about Jesus! We accept enrollment applications two years in advance. Please contact the school office at 828-464-3011 to receive an enrollment packet and application.



### **Concordia PTO is Sharing Jesus!**

Our PTO has been hiding tiny Jesus figurines around the school for the students to find as a reminder of why we celebrate Easter. Some choose to keep the little Jesus or give it to someone else; others hide it again for someone else to find!

### **ANNUAL CONCORDIA DINNER AUCTION**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 20, 2024, for Concordia's Dinner Auction at Catawba Country Club. It's a fun event for a great cause! Tickets are available on our new auction platform, Silent Auction Pro: <https://www.silentauctionpro.com/onlineticketpurchase.php?groupId=3685>. Show your support and buy a teacher a ticket!

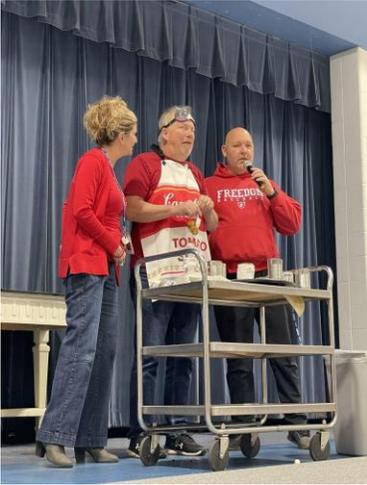
One of many stunning auction items pictured: The first grade's class project—a beautiful platter with Psalm 1:3.

A huge thank you to CR Laine for being our Diamond Sponsor this year, and many thanks to Matthews Construction, Catawba Women's Center, and Conover Hardware for being our Gold sponsors!

**TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE ON APRIL 8  
AT THE SCHOOL OR CHURCH OFFICE**



## LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK AND CANNED FOOD DRIVE



We met our goal for the “Can the Man” Food Drive, our community outreach project for National Lutheran Schools Week. We collected over 730 cans for the people in Claremont who lost their homes from January’s tornado. Since the students met the goal, Mr. Beringer had to play “Can Roulette,” where he sampled some cold creamed corn, chicken noodle soup, and a PICKLED QUAIL EGG!!! Lutheran School principals will do nearly anything for their students!

Students also made cards for our police, firefighters, and sanitation workers. We delivered a gift bag of cookies to the dedicated caregivers at Conover Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Our students also connected with a few special guest readers during the week.

Concordia faculty, staff, and student body celebrated NLSW with God’s Promise!



## 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER ACADEMIC AWARDS

The Principal's List includes students with straight A's on their report cards in 4th -8th grades. Congratulations to the following students who have made the PRINCIPAL'S LIST.

4th Grade: Ella Bentley, Lucas Brittain, Marla Donohue, Harrison Gilliam, Maxx Gilliam, Cashton McGahan, Clayton McGahan, Ryleigh Sipe, Weston Spencer, Ashlee Stillwell, Colden Westby

5th Grade: Liam Hendershot, Alexandra Matthews, Adrienne Mullinax, Kahlan VanderMolen

6th Grade: Jude Beringer, Sydney Fletcher, Jonah Fox, Sophia Frugone, Tiffany Liu, Jackson Sigmon, Analeigh Windsor

8th Grade: Mason Hamrick, Mia McAbee, Lydia Walters

The Honor Roll List is for students with A's and B's who have no unsatisfactory grades on their report cards in 4th -8th grades. Congratulations to the following students who have made the HONOR ROLL.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Mollie Boyles, Adrian Chavez Rodriguez, Mia Essary, Adyson Haugh, Emily Hensley, Ariella Jimenez, Elise Jimenez, Skyler Lookadoo, Brayleigh Richardson, Gemma Varelli

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Caleb Brown, Madison Campbell, Samuel Carver, Isaac Crouch, Jaxson Sharp, Leila Walker

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Myla Cahill, Alexander Elmore, Ariella Fisher, Jackson Hefner, Mary Channing Hoffman, Alana Jimenez, Elijah Kisby, Lowell Spleet

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Ella Arru, McKenzie Church, Briana Cook, Riley Hightower, Joyren Lin, Max Miller, Katelyn Pennell, Jack Phillips, Keaton Webster

8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Robert Abernethy III, Curtis Burns, Christabelle Carter, Alana Franklin, Max Hoffman

## STUDENTS IN THE NEWS

### 5th Grade Science Students Take 1st & 2nd Place

Catawba County Soil & Water Conservation District Education Awards Banquet was held on February 22, 2024. Two of Mr. Von Rentzell's students were recognized.

Adrienne's poster won 1st Place and advanced to the Area 2 competition, receiving an Honorable Mention.

Joshua's poster took 2nd Place. Both students won awards and a cash prize! They competed against all 3-5 graders from participating schools in Catawba County.



### Hickory Public Library Bookmark Winner

Keira Toney,  
6th grade student at  
CCDS, has won 1st place  
for 6th grade in the  
Hickory Public Library  
bookmark competition!  
There will be a reception  
on April 11th where she  
will receive her award.



**HICKORY**  
North Carolina  
Libraries. Well Crafted.

*News from...*

# UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

*Your Lutheran High School*

April 2024

## **Governor's School**

We are pleased to announce that two rising seniors, Alex Dominguez and Addie Duke, have been accepted to the prestigious Governor's School of North Carolina. The summer residential program, the oldest of its type in the nation, has a rigorous selection process with over 1,900 applicants statewide in this cycle. Alex's primary area of study will be World Languages (Spanish), and Addie's will be Social Science.

## **Alex Cordora to Play Collegiate Soccer**

Senior Alex Cordora has signed a National Letter of Intent to play Division I soccer at Queens University of Charlotte where he plans to study finance.

Alex played soccer at UCHS for 3 seasons primarily as a midfielder and was Team Captain, Most Valuable Player, and All-Conference in his junior and senior seasons. He was awarded the Foothills Athletic Conference Character Award as a junior. He has played club soccer based in South Charlotte for the past 8 years first with Barça Academy Carolinas NPL and then with CSA ECNL. He has played in three major international youth tournaments in Spain, played US Youth Development Academy Futsal with ISL Futsal, and worked as a USSF-certified referee throughout high school.

## **All-Conference & All-State Athletes**

We would like to recognize the following Winter Sports athletes for their accomplishments. All-State (Swim); Morgan Ruebusch, All-Conference (Basketball); Jasmine Garner & Ava Blair, All-Conference (Swim); Max Kelty, Ava Blair, Addie Duke, Finola Hampton, Natalie Orlowski, Amelia Pope, Elizabeth Pope, Morgan Ruebusch, & Kylie Scheller.

**Envirothon Teams Headed to State**

UCHS celebrates the qualification of two Envirothon teams for the state competition! Congratulations to *Team Ostentatious Otters* (Nolan Richardson, Ethan Johnson, Amelia Graham, Logan Dy, & Miles Britton) and *Team Stuff Like That* (Julieta Soto-Cerda, Josh Cline, Noah Thompson, Luke Miller, and Clara Morrow). Excitingly, *Team Stuff Like That* achieved a perfect score in Aquatic Ecology, making them the first UCHS team to accomplish this! Additionally, alternates, Terry Liu and Ella Farr, were able to participate and were among the top 7 scores!

## **Enrollment for 2024-2025 Still Open**

It is not too late to apply to UCHS! Go to [www.uchigh.com](http://www.uchigh.com) to apply online. Call us if you'd like to schedule a tour and see for yourself what UCHS has to offer. 828-855-2995



Presented By:  **ST. STEPHENS**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

You and your friends can feel good about having a good time, knowing that every dollar raised at this event stays in our community and helps those most in need.

**2024 marks our 11th year hosting this event.**

Our annual Gala boasts a memorable and inspiring evening, complete with a delicious dinner catered by Fresh Chef, silent auction, wine and spirit pull, and raffle opportunities. Attendees will also enjoy a photo booth, music and dancing with the unique blend of sound by The Extraordinaires.

**Event Date:** Friday, May 3, 2024

**Location:** 74 South at Moretz Mills, Hickory, NC

**Individual Tickets are on sale now!**

**Ticket Price: \$75 (\$50 tax-deductible)**

**Here is another way you can help make this a night to remember:**

One fundraising activity that will be taking place during the event requires approximately 100 gift cards. These gift cards should be a minimum of \$20 value per card. We are trying to collect these cards throughout our church congregations during the month of April.

Collection baskets will be placed at each entrance of the church for you to drop your gift cards. The Corner Table and all recipients of the food made available by your generous gifts say, "Thank YOU" for your prayers and support.

If you have question, please Betty Heavner (828-234-2898), Carla Hafer, or The Corner Table (828-464-0355) if you have any questions.

CONCORDIA CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL  
PRESENTS

Disney  
**MOANA**  
JR.

**TWO SHOWS**

**FRIDAY | APRIL 26 | 7 PM**

AND

**SATURDAY | APRIL 27 | 3 PM**

**CONCORDIA GYM**

**ADVANCE TICKETS: \$6.00  
AVAILABLE IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE  
OR \$7.00 AT THE DOOR**

Music & Lyrics by  
**Lin-Manuel Miranda, Opetaia Foa'i & Mark Mancina**

Book Adapted by  
**Susan Soon He Stanton**

Music and Orchestrations Adapted and Arranged by  
**Ian Weinberger**

Based on the 2016 Disney film Moana

DISNEY'S MOANA JR. IS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH AND ALL AUTHORIZED  
MATERIALS ARE SUPPLIED BY MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL, NEW YORK, NY  
212-541-4684 MTISHOWS.COM

# APRIL

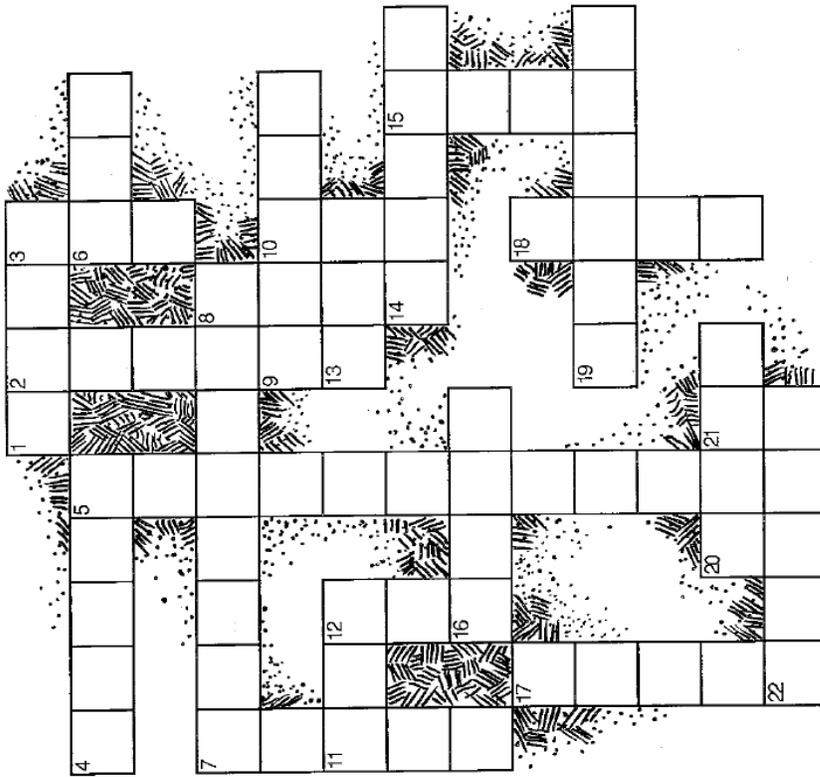
*This is a monthly prayer guide for your daily use. Each day as you pray, please feed your Mite Box in support of district and LWML Mission Grants. As you lift up the countries and mission grants listed, pray that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ would be heard by those who live there or are served by our mite offerings.*

*Each country listed has been a recipient of a mission grant from Lutheran Women in Mission at some time since 1942. What a joy it is to bring these prayers to our Father's listening ears!*



1. For us to be “fools for Christ” (1 Cor 4:10).
2. For LWML Mission Grant #8.
3. For the LWML Michigan District.
4. For Eritrea, one of the 83 countries where LWML has supported a grant.
5. For your pastor and his family. Send them a thank you note.
6. For the opportunity to pay it forward at a drive through today.
7. For the country of Estonia.
8. For the many blessings in your life.
9. Praise the Lord for having Easter in our hearts every day.
10. For our Lutheran Women in Mission Vice President of Gospel Outreach.
11. For those who work in the harvest field.
12. For immigrants.
13. For LWML Mission Grant # 9.
14. For the opportunity to invite a friend to dinner and pray how you can bless them.
15. For your LWML group.
16. Praise God for our founding fathers and a godly heritage.
17. For your own district grants and mite goal.
18. For the homeless in your community.
19. For the country of Finland.
20. For our national LCMS President and Board of Directors.
21. For LWML Mission Grant #10.
22. For Gods' wonderful creation of the earth.
23. For the LWML Indiana District.
24. For the country of France.
25. For delivery people. Thank them and give them a sweet treat.
26. For law enforcement officers. Thank them when you see them.
27. For the country of Ghana.
28. For people who are in school to be pastors and church workers.
29. For being able to be still before the Lord and know that He is God.
30. For the country of Guatemala.

# 16. RESURRECTION STACK-A-WORD



**Clues**

Fill in the blanks with the word that best fits the verse. Then complete the puzzle on the next page with the words that completed the clue.

**Clues Across**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ went to the tomb. (John 20:1)
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ and another disciple started for the tomb. (John 20:3)
- 6. There is but \_\_\_\_\_ true God.
- 7. Just before he died, Jesus said, "It is \_\_\_\_\_". (John 19:30)
- 9. Only strips of \_\_\_\_\_ were in the tomb. (John 20:6)

# EASTER WORD HUNT

The angel's words (Matt. 28:5-7) have been hidden in this word square. Look up, down, sideways, backwards and diagonally to find the words. If a word appears more than once in the verses, it is hidden only once in the square.

THE ANGEL SAID TO THE WOMEN, "DO NOT BE AFRAID, FOR I KNOW THAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR JESUS, WHO WAS CRUCIFIED. HE IS NOT HERE; HE HAS RISEN, JUST AS HE SAID. COME AND SEE THE PLACE WHERE HE LAY. THEN GO QUICKLY AND TELL HIS DISCIPLES: 'HE HAS RISEN FROM THE DEAD' . . ."

